

ABSTRACT

[1080] A "time multiplexed" transmission scheme capable of reducing the amount of interference from other cells operated at the same frequency band. Each cell in a system transmits in designated time intervals (e.g., time slots) during which other interfering cells may be prevented from transmitting. By temporarily "blanking" transmissions from interfering cells during the designated time slots, the amount of interference from these cells is reduced. The improved signal quality may support transmission at a desired or higher data rate, which may not be possible without cell blanking. In one variant, transmissions from the cells are staggered over different time slots. A set of one or more cells may be designated to transmit in each of a number of slot phases. The cells transmit in a staggered manner on these phases to reduce interference. The transmission scheme may be used for a various channel types (e.g., a control channel) and applications.